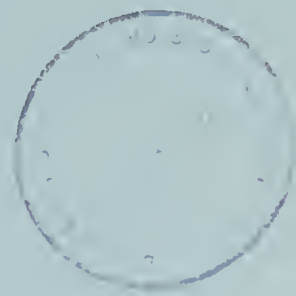


II
Urban District Council of Newbiggin by the Sea



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1970

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of Newbiggin-by-Sea Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors.

I have the honour to present to you the report of the Medical Officer of Health and that of the Public Health Inspector for the year 1970.

The vital statistics for the year were again very satisfactory. There was a further increase in the population figure, from 10,130 in 1969 to 10,460 in 1970. The adjusted birth rate rose from 12.5 to 14.7 - compared with the national rate of 16.0. The stillbirth rate, at 13 per 1,000 live and still births, was equivalent to the national figure. It is most gratifying to be able to report that there were no deaths of infants under 1 year of age in Newbiggin during 1970, and it would seem that this is something of a record in the town. The only year when this was recorded previously in the records available in the area health office, was in 1801 and the population of Newbiggin at that time was 398.

There was a slight increase in the adjusted death rate from 14.0 in 1969 to 14.1 in 1970 - the national figure was 11.7. Once again, no death occurred from tuberculosis. Over 45% of the total deaths were due to diseases of the heart and circulation, and almost 18% were due to malignant neoplasms. Five persons died from malignant neoplasms of the lung and bronchus - a figure equal to that of 1969. The death rates for malignant neoplasms of the lung and bronchus and for all other sites, were lower than the national figure in each case.

The two diseases which occurred in significant numbers during 1970 were measles and infective hepatitis.

Notifications of cases of measles began to be received in March and continued into July - and following this, one case occurred in August and one in December. There were 61 cases in all. Measles vaccine, which had been in very short supply for over a year due to the withdrawal of supplies by one firm, again became available in May 1970, and the vaccination campaign against this disease was recommenced at that time. The satisfactory effect of this, it is hoped will be seen in the future. Six hundred and seventy nine children were vaccinated against measles in the whole of the central area of Northumberland in the year under review.

Cases of infective hepatitis, which had been occurring in the town towards the end of 1969, continued to be notified in 1970, and there were over 30 notifications in the first six months of the year. Thereafter, one case occurred in September, and one in December. The cases were mainly in children, only 4 adults being affected and none of these was a food-handler.

The case of food poisoning was in a 30 year old man, whose work entailed travelling long distances, so that most of his meals were eaten away from home. The causal organism was *Salmonella panama*. Family contacts were unaffected.

Early in May, a small outbreak of infection occurred in Newbiggin. Affected families suffered from a sudden onset of vomiting, sore throat, swollen glands, headache, and diarrhoea and photophobia in some cases. Children were mainly affected, but adults who picked up the infection were very poorly and complained of an aching, stiff neck. Many members of each family were ill.

A similar outbreak of infection had occurred in a neighbouring area, one month previously, and both were probably due to the same virus, but specimens sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, failed to grow any organisms.

In September, vaccination against german measles was offered to all 13 year old girls in the area, to ensure protection against this disease, because of the known association of certain foetal abnormalities following an attack of german measles during pregnancy. A very good response was obtained and approximately 100 consent forms were returned, but the vaccine had not become available and vaccinations could not be carried out during the year under review.

In the early summer, information was received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that the toxin level had begun to increase in mussels and other bi-valves along the North Sea coastline. Local fishermen in Newbiggin were contacted by the Public Health Inspector and were advised that mussels gathered locally should not be sold or consumed.

Once again, I should like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Hay, The Public Health Inspector and other Council Officials for the help and co-operation which they extended to me during the year, and for the continued interest and support of members of the Council.

I am,
Mr. Chairman and Councillors,
Your obedient Servant,
K. Dick, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee - Councillor D.W. Burton

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Medical Officer of Health	KATHLEEN DICK M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector	E. BIRKETT M.A.P.H.I.
Offices of the Medical Officer	156, Woodhorn Road, Ashington.
Clerk to the Medical Officer	Mrs. M. Hay
Telephone	Ashington 2287
Offices of the P.H. Inspector	Front Street, Newbiggin-by-Sea.
Clerk to the P.H. Inspector	Mrs. S. Simpson - resigned July, 1970. Mrs. P. Wilkinson - Comm. August, 1970.
Telephone	Newbiggin 350

Area in Acres	1,840
Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population Mid-1970 ..	10,460
Rateable Value	£252,104
One Penny Rate Produces	£941
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1970)	3,690
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	1,793



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VITAL STATISTICS.

(figures for England and Wales are in brackets)

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	145	81	64
Illegitimate	8	3	5
	<u>153</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>69</u>

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 14.6
Local Adjusted Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor 1.01)..... 14.7 (16.0)
Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate 0.92
Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births 5 (8)

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2	2	-

Rate per 1,000 of the total (live and still) births 13 (13)

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
118	62	56

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 11.3
Local Adjusted Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor 1.25)..... 14.1 (11,7)
Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate 1.21
Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion NIL
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) NIL

Deaths of Infants under 1 year NIL
All infants per 1,000 live births NIL (18)
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks NIL
Neonatal Death Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births) NIL (12)

Deaths of Infants under 1 week NIL
Early Neonatal Death Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) NIL (11)
Perinatal Death Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week per 1,000
(Live and Still) births NIL (23)

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS.

[illegible]

	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 years & over
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
B31 Influenza	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
B32 Pneumonia	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
B33(2) Asthma	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(7) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B34 Peptic Ulcer	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B39 Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B46(9) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE49 Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<hr/>													
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		62	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	10	21	23
	F	56	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	10	19	23

VITAL STATISTICS

YEAR	POPULATION	CRUDE BIRTH RATE	CRUDE DEATH RATE	INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE
1921	6,800	31.07	10.98	29
1931	6,904	16.12	13.61	98.2
1940	9,162	17.68	10.57	50.96
1950	9,508	16.82	13.10	43.75
1960	10,150	17.93	11.43	27.47
1970	10,460	14.6	11.3	NIL

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN NEWBIGGIN-BY-SEA.

DISEASE	Total No. 1969	Total No. 1970	% of Total Deaths 1969	% of Total Deaths 1970
Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System	42	54	37.2	45.76
Malignant Neoplasms	22	21	19.5	17.79
Cerebrovascular Disease	20	18	17.7	15.25
Pneumonia, Bronchitis & Emphysema	15	12	13.3	10.17
TOTAL	99	105	87.7	88.97

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES
CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75 years & over	TOTAL
Measles	4	19	18	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	2	16	8	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	33
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	4	19	20	37	8	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	96

IMMUNISATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY DURING 1970.

Disease YEAR OF BIRTH	<u>Primary Immunisation</u>					Others Under 16 years	TOTAL
	1970	1969	1968	1967	1963-66		
Diphtheria	5	661	149	8	15	32	870
Whooping Cough	5	656	145	7	9	-	822
Tetanus	5	662	149	8	16	87	927
Poliomyelitis	7	657	144	12	20	57	897
Measles	2	150	252	129	127	19	679
<u>RE-INFORCING DOSES</u>							
Diphtheria	-	-	28	82	1017	33	1160
Whooping Cough	-	-	23	66	64	1	154
Tetanus	1	1	28	83	1030	641	1784
Poliomyelitis	-	-	28	82	1014	711	1835

<u>SMALLPOX</u>	<u>No. of children vaccinated</u>	<u>No. revaccinated</u>
<u>Age at date of vaccination.</u>		
Under 1 year	10	-
1 year	62	-
2 - 4 years	84	6
5 - 15 years	72	30
TOTAL	228	36

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1970.

There were no new cases and no deaths from this disease in 1970.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Newbiggin	NIL
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales	0.019 per 1,000
Death Rate from Other Forms of Tuberculosis in Newbiggin	NIL
Death Rate from Other Forms of Tuberculosis in England and Wales	0.014 per 1,000

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS

The Registrar-General's figures have been used in calculating the death-rates given below.

Malignant Neoplasm of the Lung and Bronchus

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea	0.478 per 1,000 pop.
Death Rate in England and Wales	0.617 per 1,000 pop.

Malignant Neoplasms of All Other Sites.

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea	1.53 per 1,000 pop.
Death Rate in England and Wales	1.773 per 1,000 pop.

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea	2.01 per 1,000 pop.
Death Rate in England and Wales	2.490 per 1,000 pop.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

There were no changes in the general provisions of Health Services for the Area in 1970.

Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by Northumberland County Council ambulances based on the Station at West View, Ashington where 15 drivers and 1 station officer are employed, working three eight-hour shifts, maintaining a 24-hour service.

All ambulances are fitted with radio and can be controlled from a central Control at Wideopen.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

Northumberland County Council is the authority responsible for these services and clinics are held at Jubilee Terrace, Newbiggin as follows:-

- Baby Clinics
- Ante-natal Clinics
- Toddler Clinics
- Immunisation Clinics
- Ante-natal and relaxation classes
- Post-natal and cervical smear clinics
- Chiropody Sessions
- Young Mothers' Club
- Playgroup - run by Young Mothers' Club

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 31st December 1970

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS

I HOUSING

Statement of Housing for the year 1970

New Houses completed during the year

a) By Local Authority	145
b) By any other Housing Authority	
c) By private persons	51

Closing and Demolition

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	121
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	-
3. Houses closed, not demolished	6
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	-

Repairs

Houses made fit by procedure under with Housing or Public Health Acts

5. By informal action	3
6. By owners, following statutory notice	-
7. By Local Authority in default of owners	-
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstructions	-

Houses Patched

9. Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of the year for temporary accommodation	-
--	---

Clearance Programme

10. Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year	-
---	---

Improvement Grants

	<u>No. of separate houses</u>
1. Applications submitted to Local Authority	17
2. Applications rejected	-
3. Applications approved	17
4. Approximate average grant per house	£389
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since the inception of scheme	243

Standard Grants

	<u>During the year</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
1. No. of separate houses for which grants have been made	26	165
2. No. of houses so provided with:-		
a) Bath or Shower	6	94
b) Wash hand basin	6	91
c) Hot Water Supply	7	83
d) Water Closet	24	147
e) Food Store	-	48

Local Authority Houses

1. Total no. of houses owned by Local Authority	1,793
2. Total no. of inhabited houses in district	3,690

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

The problem of houses in multiple occupation outlined in last year's annual report has, if anything, become more acute due to the influx of construction workers from the Alcan site. During the year the problem reached even to the Council housing and a warning had to be issued through the media of the Press to stop Council tenants from accepting lodgers and overcrowding their houses. There is, of course, in Newbiggin a chronic shortage of private rentable properties and this compounds what has become a relatively serious housing problem.

NORTH SEATON COLLIERY COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 1968

The final rehousing from the Compulsory Purchase Order was carried out in August of this year, and as a result, North Seaton Colliery, apart from those streets of newer houses, is completely empty and well on the way to being demolished. Statistically the operation involved removing some 329 families comprising 1,038 persons from 330 houses and has taken four years from the declaration of intent by the Council to the final rehousing and amounts to the fact that one person in ten of the population of the Urban District was taken from old, virtually worn out housing stock and transported en bloc to a new open plan estate some $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away. On reflection this was accomplished without any serious setbacks.

WILKIE TERRACE CLEARANCE AREA 1970

With the completion of work at North Seaton, attention was turned to the Wilkie Terrace area, and this was represented to Council during the year, approved and submitted to the Ministry. The Compulsory Purchase Order was declared and submitted to the Ministry for approval but one objection was raised and in consequence a Public Inquiry is to be held next year so all hangs fire until this has been settled. This area is probably the last in Newbiggin which is suitable for dealing with under Section 42 of the Housing Act 1957 and when complete should rid the Urban District of slum housing.

IMPROVEMENT AREAS

Now that clearance is virtually complete, attention must now be turned to improvement of sub standard housing within the area, and sections which come immediately to mind are the Colliery Area and the east side of North Seaton Road. Next year it is hoped to set the machinery of the 1969 Housing Act into motion.

II PUBLIC HEALTH

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply in the area was of its normal high standard, being adequate in quantity and bacteriologically pure on all samples taken. The Tynemouth Water Corporation was, as usual, the undertaker.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Twice weekly collections of all houses in the area has continued and the service continues to run quite smoothly.

The disposal of refuse has continued to be the problem, as the Quarry Tip at North Seaton was proving totally unsuitable for the amount of refuse it had to absorb since the Woodhorn Tip was taken over by Alcan (U.K.) Limited. Flies, rodents and above all the spontaneous combustion which is endemic on tips, causing smoke and fly ash nuisance to the remaining three streets in North Seaton and to nearby pigeon fanciers and allotment holders. Eventually a site was found to tip on what was formerly Wood Row some quarter mile from the Quarry, and whilst this is not at all a suitable tip, it has allowed a breathing space.

The most obvious solution is to extend this tip, and tip into a bight in the river bank nearby. The main problems with this type of tipping are the costs involved for to obviate any effluent and rubbish which might be discharged into the river. The second, and less costly solution, is to reach agreement with Ashington Council to use their pulverisation plant and tip on a mutually agreed cost basis. The second solution, as well as being much less costly, would seem more practical in view of boundary changes proposed by the Government to be implemented in approximately three to four years which should see the formation of a larger authority with a single refuse collection and disposal organisation.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Cleansing of the conveniences is undertaken twice a day and is done by road sweepers and office cleaners. It would seem that a more viable system would be to employ one man full time who can keep better supervision on the various conveniences.

CARAVAN SITES (CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT) ACT 1960

The sites at the Moor and Sandy Bay are both in quite good condition and since the banning of traders on the Moor Site, there has been very little in the way of complaints. Occasionally refuse disposal problems have arisen but in the main it has been a very quiet season.

ITINERANT CARAVANS

There were no complaints of unauthorised parking of vans during the course of the year.

CLEAN AIR ACTS 1956 AND 1968

After the initial problems of liason encountered last year, agreement was eventually reached between Morpeth Rural District Council, Ashington Urban District Council and this Council to co-operate with Alean on the standard deposit gauge readings taken in the area. The Councils pay a financial contribution and each month receive readings taken by International Research and Development Limited, an independant company who specialise in such industrial readings. At present, graphs are being kept of the three readings taken, i.e. sulphur trioxide, dust and fluoride, and a basic picture is being drawn up of the normal background pollution within the area. Next year it is expected that limited production will be started and this norm should then be put to good use.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

The following visits were made during the year:-

Fried Fish Shops	4
Wet Fish Shops	4
Cafe's	7
Licensed premises	3
Bottling plant	1
Site Canteens	4
Garage	1
General Dealers	24
Grocers	17
Butchers	15

MEAT INSPECTION

After amalgamation into the North Eastern Co-operative Society Limited, slaughtering ceased at the Newbiggin Slaughterhouse in September and as this is the only slaughterhouse in town there will be no further killing in Newbiggin.

Up to September, the following visits and condemnations were made:-

After 152 visits, the following tables shows the throughput.

	<u>Bovine excl. Calves</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lanbs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed and inspected	379	1	509	418
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerosis</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1
Carcases some part or organ condemned	89	-	15	75
Percentage of number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerai	23.5	-	2.94	17.8
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Percentage of number affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticerosis only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases some part or organ of which was condemned	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number affected with Cysticerosis	-	-	-	-

Condemnations were as follows:-

Cattle

<u>Organ</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>	<u>Approx. Weight</u>
Lungs	2 prs. 8 prs. 2 prs. 1 pr.	Fluke Abscess Pleurisy C. Bovis Abscessed	36 lbs 144 lbs 36 lbs 18 lbs
Liver	10 2 2 5 3	Facioliasis Ascariasis Abscessed Multiple abscessed Cirrhosis	120 lbs 24 lbs 24 lbs 60 lbs 36 lbs
Part Livers	36	Fascioliasis	180 lbs
Heart	1 1	Pericarditis C. Bovis	4 lbs 4 lbs
Head	1	C. Bovis	30 lbs
Thin Skirt	1 4	Pleurisy Abscessed	3 lbs 12 lbs

Sheep

<u>Organ</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>	<u>Approx. Weight</u>
Liver	11 1 1	Distomatosis Pregnancy toxemia Hydatosis	33 lbs 3 lbs 3 lbs
Heart and Lungs	2 prs.	Pericarditis	6 lbs

Pigs

Lungs	44 prs	Pneumonia	484 lbs
Liver	4 14	Hydatitosis Ascariasis	12 lbs 42 lbs
Heart and Lungs	3 prs.	Pericarditis	9 lbs
Plucks	3	Pericarditis and Ascariasis	15 lbs
Part livers	1	Ascariasis	11 lbs
Viscera	1	Pericarditis	15 lbs
Carcase	1	Oedaema, acute pleurisy, acute pericarditis and arthritis	136 lbs

OTHER FOODS

The following articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption and were condemned.

98 tins consisting of meat, vegetables and fruit
3 ten pound tins sheep's liver

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Inspections

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Number of</u>		
		<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	12	4	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	11	6	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority. (excluding outworkers premises)	4	-	-	-
TOTAL	27	10	-	-

Cases in which Defects were found

Number of cases in which defects were found

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u>		<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</u>
			<u>To H.M.</u>	<u>By H.M.</u>	
			<u>Inspector</u>		
Want of cleanliness	-	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	-	-	-	-	-

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

Rodent Control

Rats	61
Mice	12

Insect Control

Cockroaches	138
Clover Mite	5
Earwigs	52
Blow flies	1
Garden Beetles	2
Fleas	1
Cluster Fly	1
Silver fish	2
Fly Larvae	1

Mosquitoes

Since Alcan took over the Blue Holes area and drained it, it has removed the biggest single breeding ground for mosquitoes in the area. No complaints were received during the year.

